



## Albert Leon Stricklen

November 10, 1941 - November 18, 2025

Albert Leon Stricklen, Vietnam Veteran, Bronze Star recipient, devoted husband, father, and grandfather, entered the Kingdom of Heaven on November 18, 2025, at age 84.

Born in Eustis, Florida, to Simon and Pauline Stricklen, Leon grew up in Umatilla with his brother, Martin, enjoying hunting, fishing, and working in the family groves. He was a Umatilla High School graduate and served as a 1st Lieutenant with the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam, earning the Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and two Purple Hearts.

Leon earned bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture from the University of Florida. He was a third-generation citrus grower, MAI-designated appraiser, and trusted expert witness for the Florida Department of Transportation on agricultural property cases.

Upon marrying his wife, Lauren, Leon fully embraced fatherhood to her children, Erika and Edward, with unwavering devotion. A man of deep faith, he spent 42 years as a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Eustis, serving many times as Senior Warden.

Leon will be remembered for his strength, integrity, love of the outdoors, and steadfast dedication to God and his family.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Lauren; children Erika Krivenko, Edward Blakiston and daughter-in-law, Leigh Blakiston; and grandchildren Mark McHale, Kelly McHale, Maddox Blakiston, Garrett Blakiston, and Tristan

Blakiston.

Visitation for Mr. Stricklen will be held in the Chapel of Beyers Funeral Home, 279 S. Central Ave, Umatilla, FL on Sunday December 7, 2025 from 2-4 PM. A Funeral Services will follow at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 600 E. Lemon St, Eustis, FL on Monday December 8 beginning at 11 AM with interment to follow at Glendale Cemetery, Umatilla, FL. The family will host a reception and receive friends and share in a time of fellowship following the interment back at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: The Umatilla Masonic Lodge #65, P.O. Box 809, Umatilla, FL 32784.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 7. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory - Umatilla  
279 South Central Avenue  
Umatilla, FL 32784  
(352) 669-2146

## Funeral Service

DEC 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
600 E. Lemon St.  
Eustis, FL 32726

## Graveside

DEC 8. 12:00 PM (ET)

Glendale Cemetery  
40675-40899 Maxwell Rd.  
Umatilla, FL

# Tribute Wall

EK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Erika Blakiston Krivenko - December 12, 2025 at 10:26 PM

DM

“ The man, the myth, the legend. Leon will be missed by his loving family and friends, his beloved community, his church family, and all who knew him. May he rest in peace.



Diane Mullen - December 06, 2025 at 12:18 PM

CG

“ Condolences to the Stricklen family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Leon will be missed.

Connie Gibson - November 26, 2025 at 08:50 AM

FD

“ Frank Driggers lit a candle in memory of Albert Leon Stricklen



Frank Driggers - November 26, 2025 at 07:35 AM